Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management with Bhutan

1499. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management in consultation with Bhutan to assess the probable cause and effects of recurring floods and erosions in areas, of the country adjacent to Bhutan;

(b) if so, the number of times the Joint Group of Experts has met so far; and

(c) what is the outcome of those meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Joint Group of Experts (JGE) had one meeting so far which was held from 1st to 5th November, 2004. During the meeting a series of discussions and several field visits were made. The JGE felt that more detailed examination was required and accordingly it was agreed to form a Joint Technical Team to study the flood related problems of the rivers coming from Bhutan and suggest remedial measures.

Shifting of Directorate of CWC

1500. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider shifting of parts of Directorate of Central Water Commission dealing with the Hydrology, Designs and Project appraisal pertaining to Southern States to Hyderabad to expedite the clearance of various investigations and to coordinate the various Directorates of Central Water Commission and other Ministries; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the involvement of large number of specialized directorates of Central Water Commission in techno-economic appraisal of major

and multipurpose projects, need for effective coordination with other Central agencies, facilities of a well equipped library for reference books and other data as well as infrastructure available at the Delhi office of the Commission, it is considered not possible to shift part of the directorates of Central Water Commission dealing with hydrology, designs and project appraisal pertaining to Southern States to Hyderabad.

Restoration of agricultural land

1501. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to overflow of Chenab river thousands of acres of agricultural land is being destroyed every year;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to restore agricultural land;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for these agricultural land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per information available, on an average 955 hectares (about 2360 acres) of fertile land in Jammu District is affected due to flooding from Chenab and other rivers.

(b) to (d) Available information from Government of Jammu and Kashmir indicates execution of flood protection works at vulnerable spots on Left Bank of river Chenab, downstream Akhnoor with Institutional funding and funds available with the State.

The State Government has also sent a Master Plan for flood protection works on river Chenab in J&K State at an estimated cost of Rs. 23 crores for techno economic appraisal and acceptance by Planning Commission. The proposal envisages strengthening of existing embankments and construction of new embankments, spurs, studs,